

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

September 2011 – Week 2

Air Date: September 11 – September 17 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: STORMING THE PRISON



SEPTEMBER 1875 AND A HURRICANE FREES A KILLER.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1875. INDIANOLA. IT'S THE LONGEST AND BLOODIEST FAMILY FEUD IN TEXAS HISTORY. FOR A DECADE THE SUTTONS AND TAYLORS HAVE BEEN AT WAR IN DEWITT COUNTY.

WHEN OLD MAN SUTTON BOARDS A STEAMSHIP TO FLEE TEXAS, HE IS GUNNED DOWN IN FRONT OF HIS WIFE.

TODAY, THE TOWN IS JAMMED WITH SPECTATORS FOR THE TRIAL OF HIS KILLER, BILLY TAYLOR.

BUT OVERNIGHT, THE WINDS RISE AND IT BEGINS TO RAIN. SOON, A HURRICANE SLAMS INTO INDIANOLA, FLOODING THE JAIL. TO SAVE THE PRISONERS, COMPASSIONATE JAILERS OPEN THE CELLS AND FLEE.

TAYLOR GETS OUT AND IS NEVER SEEN AGAIN. INDIANOLA, ONE OF THE LARGEST PORTS IN TEXAS, WAS DESTROYED AND NEVER RECOVERED.

THE INDIANOLA STORM FREED A KILLER 136 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

C. L. Sonnichsen, "SUTTON-TAYLOR FEUD," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/jcs03>), accessed August 05, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Helen B. Frantz, "INDIANOLA HURRICANES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ydi01>), accessed August 05, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Legends of America" website, accessed 8/5/2011
<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/tx-suttontaylor.html>

Texas Hurricane History, David Roth, NWS
<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/research/txhur.pdf>

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Save Texas History Program

1-800-998-4GLO | www.savetexashistory.org | www.thisweekintexashistory.org

Texas General Land Office | Communications Division | 512-475-1685